

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview
with Fidel Castro

Mr. Pierre Salinger in a memorandum to Mr. Edwin M. Martin of May 2, 1963 requested comments on a transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. A memorandum which provides comment on the ABC transcript is enclosed.

William E. Probert
William E. Probert
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

1. Memorandum.
2. Transcript.

to the United States with Castro. The following points were
through:

- a. The mission was intended to forestall United States aggression.
- b. The Soviet troops are merely technicians - but would fight if Cuba is invaded.
- c. Castro believes hard core Communists had infiltrated the Cuban revolution.
- d. Castro is ill-prepared. He has complete anti-Americanism. He strikes as Soviet ally.
- e. Castro supports revolution. Says it can't be done.
- f. Castro will be willing to negotiate - under terms.
- g. According to a United States commission to talk about cooperation.
- h. Standard earlier promises of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- i. Would welcome reductions of tensions and rapprochement with United States.
- j. Will not touch the title of the Caribbean.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Castro's mission to the United States of this interview would strengthen on the opposition to the United States. Castro's mission, further travels, and the United States' attitude of towards United States policy.

2. Castro's mission to the United States of this interview would strengthen on the opposition to the United States. Castro's mission, further travels, and the United States' attitude of towards United States policy.

3. Castro's mission to the United States of this interview would strengthen on the opposition to the United States. Castro's mission, further travels, and the United States' attitude of towards United States policy.

4. Castro's mission to the United States of this interview would strengthen on the opposition to the United States. Castro's mission, further travels, and the United States' attitude of towards United States policy.

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Edwin L. Martin
Assistant Secretary of State for American
Affairs

I've just received this transcript of an ABC
interview with Castro. Would you please look
it over, give me your comments and return it
to me at your earliest convenience?


Edwin L. Martin
Assistant Secretary
of State

TRANSCRIBED PAGES FOLLOW

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MCGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview
with Fidel Castro

Mr. Pierre Salinger in a memorandum to Mr. Edwin M. Martin of May 2, 1963 requested comments on a transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. A memorandum which provides comment on the ABC transcript is enclosed.

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum
2. Transcript

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview with Fidel Castro

In Lisa Howard's interview with Castro, the following points come through:

- a. The missiles were introduced to forestall United States aggression.
- b. The Soviet troops were merely technicians - but would fight if Cuba is invaded.
- c. Schism between hard nosed Commies and Fidelistas has been reconciled.
- d. Castro is no puppet. He has complete self determination. No strings on Soviet aid.
- e. Denies exporting revolution. Says it can't be done.
- f. Blames turn to Communism on suspension of sugar quota.
- g. Receptive to a United States commission to talk about compensation.
- h. Abandoned earlier promises of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- i. Would welcome reductions of tensions and rapprochement with United States.
- j. Will not become the Tito of the Caribbean.

COMMENT:

1. Public airing in the United States of this interview would strengthen the arguments of "peace" groups, "liberal" thinkers, Commies, fellow travellers, and opportunistic political opponents of present United States policy.

2. It would provide Castro with a wide United States and international audience for his "reasonable" line. Question: Should we facilitate his propoganda efforts?

3. Other Latin American countries, particularly Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia and Uruguay, would say, in effect "Let's relax, there is no danger. Why should we continue to beat on Castro?"

4. Denial of ABC "rights" to report the news would raise the question of "managed" news.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

May 2, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

Hon. Edwin M. Martin
Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-
American Affairs

I've just received this transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. Would you please look it over, give me your comments and return it to me at your earliest convenience?

Pierre Salinger
Press Secretary
to the President